

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended to correct minor informalities therein, which are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 5-7, 10-13, and 15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 14, and 16 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claim 16 was objected to for informalities. Claims 1-5, 8-10, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,896,563 to Kawanami et al. (herein "Kawanami"). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,362,685 to Vagher. Claims 1, 6-8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over admitted art in view of Vagher. Claim 13 is allowed.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowance of the claim 13.

Addressing first the objection of claim 16, that objection is obviated by the present response as claim 16 is canceled by the present response.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kawanami, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claims 1-4 are canceled without prejudice, claim 5 is rewritten in independent form with clarifying amendments, claims 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice, claim 10 is rewritten in independent form with clarifying amendments, claim 14 is canceled without prejudice, and claim 15 is rewritten in independent form with clarifying amendments.

Each of now independent claims 5, 10, and 15 recites features of at least one quarter-wavelength line, which are clarified by the present response. Specifically, each of those claims now recites:

wherein the low reflection limiter comprises a plurality of series connection circuits, each of which comprises a limiter diode and a resistor connected in series with each other, and at least one quarter-wavelength line, a first side of which is connected to a first series connection circuit of the plurality of series connection circuits and a second side of which is connected to a second series connection circuit of the plurality of series connection circuits.

The above-noted features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to Figure 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a first series connection circuit 21 in which a limiter diode D1 and a resistor R1 are connected in series with each other is connected to a first end of a quarter-wavelength line 23, and a second end of the quarter-wavelength line 23 is connected to a second series connection circuit 22 with a limiter diode D2 and resistor R2. Such a structure as clarified in the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over Kawanami.

With respect to features of the quarter-wavelength line previously recited in claim 5, the outstanding Office Action cites the quarter-wavelength line L in figure 3 of Kawanami. However, as clearly shown in for example Figure 3 of Kawanami such a quarter-wavelength line L is not connected at both ends to a connection circuit of a limiter diode and a resistor. Thus, amended independent claims 5, 10, and 15 are believed to clearly distinguish over Kawanami.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Vagher, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claim 16 is canceled by the present response.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 6-8, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the admitted art in view of Vagher, that rejection is traversed by the present response. Independent claims 1 and 8 are canceled and claims 6, 7, 11, and 12 are amended to now depend from the above-noted amended independent claims 5 and 10, which were not

rejected over the combination of teachings of the admitted art in view of Vagher. Moreover, applicants submit no teachings of the admitted art in view of Vagher fully meets the limitations now recited in the claims.

In view of the present response, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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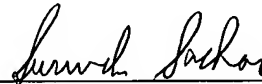
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